




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Licensed Venues, Trading Hours

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.48 pm): What absolute rubbish we have just heard from the member from North Queensland. What we have had from this Labor government is two years of delay, two years of inaction, two years of bumbles, two years of doing nothing, two years of flip-flopping, two years of rolling over to union masters, two years of a revolving door of ministers, two years of internal votes and factional fights to work out who out of the seven of the right faction gets the votes to put forward to the caucus, and two years of Queensland being left behind and held back by the Labor government. That is the record of Anastacia Palaszczuk's government, not what we have heard from the government this morning.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: When we talk about the bumbles, I love it when the member for Brisbane Central interjects when she is the subject matter of what I am going to talk about, which is the bungling Attorney-General, the minister responsible for liquor licensing with respect to lockout laws in the state of Queensland. Members opposite have talked a lot about trains today. The only train working on time in Queensland at the moment is the train that rolled into cabinet and rolled over Dr Anthony Lynham. That is the only train that has been in the cabinet. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of this state, has had more positions on lockout laws than shots in a Long Island iced tea. They are the facts of the matter. That is the reality of the matter.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the members opposite interjecting saying, 'How can he be so mean? What is he talking about?' Let me quote their leader, their Premier. Last year in estimates Mr Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, asked the Premier—

... does the government remain committed to support the 1 am lockout which is due to come into effect in February next year?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is due to come in as per the legislation next year, yes.

Mr NICHOLLS: You remain committed to supporting that position?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Then I asked the Attorney-General at the same estimates whether she intends to stick by Dr Lynham's policy for lockouts to be introduced in February. The Attorney-General was quoted in *Hansard* at the time saying—

We stand by what we have introduced in legislation, which is that the option of going to a 1 am lockout with 3 am last drinks will come in on 1 February for safe-night-out precincts.

The bizarre situation we have in Queensland is that at the moment we have laws for lockouts in Queensland. Lockouts started on 1 February, but the government have said to the law enforcement agencies, 'Just turn a blind eye to it because we are going to change the policy on it.' We do not know

how they are going to change the policy; they will have to amend legislation. Then the government came out and said, 'We're not going to have lockout laws; we're going to have ID scanners.' ID scanners are in law at the moment because the LNP introduced them into law, but the government delayed it last year when they said, 'We're not going to introduce ID scanners.' We currently have ID scanners in law at the moment and lockout laws in law at the moment. The government said they did not support ID scanners six months ago, they supported lockouts, but now they support ID scanners and they do not support lockouts. If the business community is confused about liquor policy in this state it is no wonder because the government is confused. The government has not got a consistent position on liquor laws in the state of Queensland.

If we are talking about the member for Brisbane Central, how can she let her groups in the business community have so much uncertainty for two years in not knowing whether lockouts are in or not? We know staff were released from duties because lockout laws were being introduced. Essentially, what we have at the moment in terms of alcohol fuelled violence policy in the state of Queensland is the LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy bar one element, and that is the earlier closing time. The only thing they have done in two years is change trading hours; they have brought them forward two hours. Everything else was LNP policy. Additional police resources—

Mrs D'Ath: And the banning of shots.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. Additional police resources was LNP policy. Banning orders was LNP policy. The safe night precincts was LNP policy. Funding to the safe night precincts was LNP policy. ID scanners was a policy of the LNP which has already been introduced. The member opposite can shake his head, but the fact is if he goes back to *Hansard*—and he was not here at the time so I understand he will not know about it—he will see that the LNP actually introduced ID scanners into law in the state of Queensland.

Now let us talk about the member for Brisbane Central. We had a review of trading hours in this state, and they leaked some details to the media on the weekend—the good stuff they want to get debate about. However, they have not disclosed and they have not tabled the review. They talked about the review; the Premier quoted from the review this morning, but they have not disclosed the review. They are happy to review and not do and then when they review they do not disclose what the review found. In terms of accountability and transparency the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations should immediately table the Mickel report into trading hours. Too many small businesses rely on what government policy is going to be in the future. They deserve to know what was in that report and the final outcomes of that report.